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October 11, 2004

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Benson E. Legg
United States District Court
for the District of Maryland
Third Floor, Room 340
101 W. Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Re: In the Matter of the Complaint of
Eternity Shipping Ltd., et al.
for Exoneration from or Limitation of Liability
Civil Action No.: L-01-CV-0250

Dear Judge Legg:

As your Honor is aware, various dispositive motions were filed in this case on or before the October 6 deadline. Looking ahead, on behalf of all counsel I now request that the case be set in for a settlement conference. Our recent experience has been that the magistrate judges' schedules are booked sixty to ninety days into the future, which might well dovetail with the Court's anticipated schedule for resolution of the recently filed dispositive motions. With this case in the posture of a limitation action with multiple claimants, it might be an appropriate case for referral to Judge Bredar, who has substantial experience recently in mediating multiple party Limitation of Liability Act cases.

Thank you for your continued consideration in the handling of this case.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. H. Whitman, Jr." Below the signature, the name "M. Hamilton Whitman, Jr." is printed in a smaller, sans-serif font.

MHWjr/pkp